

# VIETNAM COURIER

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7th Year

25th ANNIVERSARY

of the

AUGUST REVOLUTION (Aug. 19, 1945)

and the

FOUNDING OF THE DRVN (Sept. 2, 1945)

## 25th REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS SOLEMNLY OBSERVED

A commemorative meeting for the 25th Revolution and Independence Days was held on August 31 at Ba Dinh Hall in Hanoi under the chairmanship of Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN, with the participation of the leaders of the State and the Viet Nam Workers' Party, including DRVN Vice-President Nguyen Luong Bang, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC Le Duan, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee Truong Chinh, and Premier Pham Van Dong.

The acting head of the Special Representation of the RSVN as well as heads of the diplomatic missions in Hanoi and many foreign guests were also present.

Speaking at the meeting, Premier Pham Van Dong reviewed the various stages successfully traversed by the Vietnamese people over the past 25 years and set forth the immediate tasks of the Vietnamese revolution.

We reproduce in this issue and in that of next week large excerpts from this speech.

A State reception was given by Premier Pham Van Dong on August 31, and attended by the leaders of the State, the Viet Nam Workers' Party, other political parties, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, mass organizations (youth, women, trade-unions, various religious communities...), representatives of various minority ethnicities in Viet Nam, the heads of the Special Representation of the RSVN and diplomatic missions in Hanoi as well as foreign specialists in North Viet Nam and other foreign guests.

In his speech, the Prime Minister exalted the important successes obtained in the fight against US aggression and in the building of socialism. He expressed the profound gratitude of our people for the devoted

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## 25 YEARS OF NATIONAL STRUGGLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Excerpts from Premier PHAM VAN DONG's speech at the grand meeting held on Aug. 31 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the August Revolution and the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

THE past quarter-century has been the most glorious period in the history of our nation. It is closely linked with the birth and growth of the new social regime, the product of the August Revolution. The revolution embodies the combination of the two forces of our era — national independence and socialism — the combination of the fine traditions of our nation with the most advanced ideology of mankind. It represents the close ties between our people and the revolutionary forces in the world.

During this historic period of 25 years, our country has gone through profound revolutionary changes. First, there was the August Revolu-

tion which liberated our people from the double yoke of oppression by the colonialists and feudalists and elevated them to the status of masters of society, and took our country out of obscurity. It has become the present Democratic Republic of Viet Nam whose exploits in fighting and construction are resounding far and wide. Then came the victorious struggle of resistance against the French colonialists, which dealt a crushing blow at old colonialism, helping to start the process of piece-by-piece disintegration of the colonial system of imperialism. And today, it is the resistance against US imperialism for national salvation, which has brought our people to the forefront and the peak of the world people's fight against

aggressive and bellicose US imperialism. There are also the great accomplishments of our people in all fields — political, economic and cultural — in the building of a new life in the North which is advancing from the condition of a former colonial and semi-feudal country straight to socialist bypassing the stage of capitalist development.

In this glorious historic day, the heart of every Vietnamese is filled with pride and gratitude as he turns his thoughts to our beloved and venerated President Ho Chi Minh, the leader and great teacher who, together with our Party, led our people to the triumph of the August

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25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGUST REVOLUTION AND THE FOUNDING OF THE DRVN





# FUNK VOICES SUPPORT U TO LAO PEOPLE'S JUST FIGHT

THE Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea issued on August 18 a statement voicing its support to the Lao people's just struggle.

"The US imperialists and their lackeys, the state, said, "are continuing their criminal aggression and 'special' war against Laos. The Lao people and their friends must put an end to their intervention and aggression against Laos. They must withdraw from Laos totally and unconditionally. US troops, military personnel and mercenaries and the Thai and Saigon mercenary troops. Without delay and starting from now, the American imperialists must stop interfering in the internal affairs of Laos so that the Lao people may settle their own affairs."

After hurling the brilliant successes of the Lao patriotic forces during the past eight years and the good will for peace of the Lao Patriotic Front, the statement went on:

"The Cambodian people, the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, faithful to the obligations undertaken at the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, resolutely support the heroic struggle of the Lao people and reaffirm that the Lao question should be settled on the basis of the March 1970 five-point statement of the Central Committee

of the Lao Patriotic Front, in conformity with the 1962 Geneva Agreements and present concrete reality in Laos. The American imperialists must put an end to their intervention and aggression against Laos. They must withdraw from Laos totally and unconditionally. US troops, military personnel and mercenaries and the Thai and Saigon mercenary troops. Without delay and starting from now, the American imperialists must stop interfering in the internal affairs of Laos so that the Lao people may settle their own affairs."

The statement added:

"The Cambodian people, the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia are convinced that, in the light of the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, the Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese peoples, with their close solidarity and the powerful support of the people of the world, and uniting together all ordeals and sacrifices, are resolved to keep up their heroic fight until the defeat of the American imperialists and their lackeys. They will bring the battle to final and total victory."

## 82nd Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Sept. 3, 1970)

### Mr XUAN THUY DENOUNCES NIXON'S FALLACIES

"Up to now, after nearly twenty months and over eighty sessions, it is obvious that the US government has not shown a serious and good-will attitude," observed Mr Xuan Thuy, head of the delegation of the DRVN government.

Mr Xuan Thuy accused President Nixon's fallacious allegations. Nixon for example put forward the pretext of "safeguarding GIs' life and security in Viet Nam" to justify his escalation of the war in Cambodia. He often played upon such words as "defeat" and "humiliation" to oppose a just and appropriate solution to the Viet Nam war. He also pretended that the USA, for fear that the other side would not accept serious negotiations, could not make public a time limit for a withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam and that such a retreat would lead to reprisals against millions of people, etc. "All that," Mr Xuan Thuy said, "is merely a pretext for not putting an end to the war and not withdrawing all the US troops from South Viet Nam but, on the contrary, for maintaining American neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam."

He also pointed out that Nixon had recently declared that the US would have nothing new to put forward at the Paris Conference and that it would merely wait for the other side to do so. He thus wanted to make people think that the US had already put forward many peace initiatives. But in fact what were these so-called peace initiatives? Didn't they consist of stepping up bombings, and prolonging and extending the war in Viet Nam to the whole of Indochina?

Mr Xuan Thuy concluded:

"Only when the US government has given up its policy of prolonging and expanding its war of aggression, and its neo-colonialist aim in South Viet Nam, can the Paris Conference make progress."

Under variegated forms, in August 1970, the American people stepped up their actions against the Nixon administration's expanding the war to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula, against repression, terror and racial segregation and for peace, employment and liquidation of poverty in the States.

On August 3, 1970, 303 American lawyers issued a statement (called by the *Baltimore Sun*) strongly opposing the Viet Nam war and urging that the US government put an end to it and pull US troops out of South Viet Nam. At a convention on August 11, Michigan branch of the Democratic Party passed a resolution pressing for an end to the Viet Nam war and withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam. The

US Senate had unanimously approved an amendment bill demanding reduction of allowances to Pak Jung Hi and Thai troops fighting in South Viet Nam. A strong action of the US Congress was aimed at strengthening the Cooper-Church bill, preventing the Nixon administration from squandering greencards in the US war in Southeast Asia.

In their drive against racism and for employment, US Afro-Americans also put up stubborn fight against the Viet Nam war and urged that the US government put an end to it and pull US troops out of South Viet Nam.

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August 1970

# Anti-War Actions in the US

ed the unity of the American people. They said that the Saigon administration did not deserve the support of the American people; the conflict deserved the name "Panther," called on all social organizations and sections of people in the US to support the just struggle of the South Vietnamese patriots against the imperialists and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate in Saigon.

Protests against US President Nixon's kindling another "Viet Nam," Senator Mansfield said he hoped to see no repeat itself. He also criticized US Vice-President Spiro Agnew's contention aimed at justifying its war of aggression in Cambodia.

Speaking at a Democratic sponsored dinner in Butte, Montana, on the night of August 15, Sargent Shriver, former US ambassador to France, said Nixon had no time-table for ending the Viet Nam war but a belief on the part of more American lives."

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On August 6, in the House of Representatives, Congressman D. Bingham made a speech in protest against the Nixon administration prolonging the Viet Nam war. On August 12, the National Press Committee in New York held a press conference to condemn the US war in Viet Nam as a contravention of the American constitution and a ruthless attack on a neutral country.

On August 15, the US Senate passed a resolution for a nationwide week of signing petitions for peace in Viet Nam (to be held from October 3 to 10, 1970) and stopping US bombing and dislodging movement to US government offices at all levels as pressure on the Nixon administration to end the Viet Nam war.

On August 21, the US Senate passed an amendment bill tabled by Senator W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for suspension of all bombing to the Saigon and Bangkok troops or any other army units of US satellite countries fighting in Cambodia and Laos. Before that date, on August 20, the

American public opinion into accepting the Nixon administration policy, and his branding as "renegades" those who opposed it. Senator W. Fulbright said Agnew's behaviour was a serious menace for the American people.

VIET NAM COURIER

# SAIGON STUDENT AGITATION UNABATED

On August 10, 1970 a spokesman of the Saigon General Association of Students denounced the puppet authorities' herding of 2,000 prisoners, who had been detained under suspicion of being Communists, into Hoa Manh Ca and Phu Nhieu barracks and compelling them to wear military uniforms and replenish the puppet 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th regiments. They were transferred to the A So, Khe Sanh, Ba Long and Laot battlefields.

Two days later 60 students held, on behalf of the whole of Pharmacy Faculty in Saigon, a 24-hour hunger-strike protest against the puppet ruling class' drafting of pharmacists, male and female.

Representatives of the pharmacy students called at the puppet Presidency and the National Defence Department on

August 22 to hand in protests. Besides, in one of their statements, they threatened a second drive of actions should their claims not be met. Then they began to call a flood of delegations to protest against the repressive organization.

This campaign will go on until September 5 pending the rulers' response.

Dilegates of students and pupils in Saigon, Can Tho, and Phu Nhieu, convened on August 30 a conference at Saigon Agricultural College to stage sit-ins against the administration's repression of students. The gathering was in session when the participants learned of Nguyen Van Thieu's arrival to Saigon Town Hall to vote in the partial "Senate elections." They immediately left the meeting-hall, lined up

and staged a protest parade in front of US Embassy. They were savagely dealt with by puppet policemen there. Huynh Tan Man, President of the SGAS, was beaten unconscious and badly wounded, 17 others including 12 girl students were taken away. The news-men covering the demonstration were threatened and their news cameras shot by the puppets.

As Tran Huy Lieu was finishing, the tens of thousands strong rally thundered: "Hurrah for the Provisional Government!", "Long live independent Viet Nam!"

"Long live the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam!"

battle for national independence...

After that, we returned to the former office of the French Resident. This day, August 30, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the delegation entered the Imperial Citadel and mounted the Ngo Mon gate to receive the abdication. By the time, big crowds had gathered on the large lawn in front of the Ngo Mon gate from the Thuong Tu gate to the foot of the citadel estimated at 100,000 people.

At the gate, the delegation of the Provisional Government to give me something as a souvenir of this moment." After a brief consultation with Nguyen Luong Bang and myself, I ran to the rostrum. Bao Dai was accompanied by some other high-ranking mandarins.

It was a awkward moment for Bao Dai. He did not know what to do and what to say. Only after a while did he say: "Now I have become a citizen of an independent country and the delegation of the Provisional Government to give me something as a souvenir of this moment."

"After a brief consultation with Nguyen Luong Bang and myself, I ran to the rostrum. Bao Dai was accompanied by some other high-ranking mandarins.

After the ceremony the crowd dispersed. First, we read out a cable just received from Hanoi announcing that the Provisional Government would be presented to the people on September 2.

Ho Chi Minh would read the Declaration of Independence. We also read the member list of the Provisional Government to the Huu Tiep Hall, the gate of the Revolution. Then Bao Dai stammered out his Abdication Declaration. He did so because either he was overcome by emotion or he was not used to speak Vietnamese.

After Bao Dai's pronouncement, the yellow flag of his "imperial power" was lowered and the gold star banner red was hoisted to the thunderous applause of the crowds. Then Bao Dai handed over the royal seal (cast in pure gold under the reign of King Minh Mang and weighing 100 kilos) together with the royal sword in a jade-inlaid gold sheath (but the blade was already rusty). Tran Huy Lieu took them and a member of the People's Revolutionary Committee, then read the statement of the delegation of the Provisional Government. The first part of it said:

"Following our nation's history has come to a turning point. The imperial regime has been compelled to give place to the democratic republican regime, in compliance with the common aspiration of our entire people and a history. Our task should point out here is that the democratic republican regime has not come fortuitously to our people but through a sustained effort of millions of our people during many past decades. The struggle for the creation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has always been linked to the

# A CINEMA...

(Continued from page 3)

MANY foreign spectators or critics are sensitive to the lyricism which prevails in Vietnamese films. At the Moscow Film Festival in 1959, Georges Sadoul remarked that *Chung mat giang song* was a work rich in poetry and life, imbued with the traditional culture and pregnant with promises. The bulletin of the Karlevy Vary Festival in 1962 had this to say of *Con chim vanh khuyen* (Special prize): "It epitomizes all the beauty of

the landscape and the people's life, a life full of poetry. We are totally transported by the rhythm of that moving story."

The Vietnamese scenery is pervaded by a discreet and penetrating poetry. With its refinement, sensibility, optimism, love of nature and the Motherland, the Vietnamese soul finds a faithful echo in the folk song which permeates all our artistic branches including our nascent cinema.

No wonder that, besides feature films, two samples of which have been mentioned above, lyricism can be found also in such documents as *Das song ngon gio*, or *Duong ra phia mat khuyen* (Special prize): "It epitomizes all the beauty of

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# PUPPET TROOPS' HEAVY LOSSES...

(Continued from page 8)

district capitals and townlets, the rear base of Regiment 14, Division 7, and the base of Regiment 9, Division 9, in Ben Tre province were assaulted. The same night, the local inhabitants rose up and destroyed about 40 "strategic hamlets." In Rach Gia, provincial capital, the command post on Xem Ra camp, Ba Dinh River, Doc River and Hon Soc hill. On the Ba Dinh front (14 km south of Go Quao) Battalion 3 (Regiment 33, puppet Division 21) was wiped out in one night. So was another company two days later. In Tra Vinh province, in the first half of August, 300 enemy troops were knocked down on the front line. Some 100 houses were demolished and 14 others were partially liberated.

Not far north of Saigon, was the scene of a holocaust of Saigon puppet main bastion Cambodia. From mid-July to the end of August, the enemy sustained 1,200 casualties and 270 military vehicles destroyed.

South of Trung Bo, in the first half of August, in the provinces of Binh Thuan, Tuyen Quang and Binh Tuy, the PLAF wiped out nearly 1,000 enemy soldiers including 7 American companies. The rush on an infantry company and an artillery company of US Regiment 199 at Nui Gia (Binh Tuy) vividly illustrated the great destructiveness of the PLAF in the enemy defence line.

In a word, the August 1970 military operations of the South Viet Nam liberation forces augured ill for the US defence with puppet troops of the outer belt and its "special pacification" plan.

Stimulated by the results obtained with its own efforts, and by the sympathy and assistance of film producers and filmgoers in all countries, especially the socialist camp, the Vietnamese cinema is doing its best to build up an art worthy of its people and to make a modest contribution to world progressive cinematography.

(1) *Covered on Aug. 16, 1970, the Ten Thousand Peoples Congress decided on the formation of a National Liberation Committee which was subsequently transformed into the Provisional Government of the DRVN.*

(2) *After the Revolution, Mr Pham Khac Hiep was appointed Chief of the Secretariat of the Ministry of the Interior, then Head of the State Planning Commission, then Premier's Office of the Government of the DRVN. He is now a member of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.*

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, a few days after the return to Hanoi from the Tan Tao People's Congress (1), President Ho Chi Minh appointed a delegation of the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to receive Bao Dai's abdication in Hue (the Provisional Government had previously asked by cable Bao Dai to abdicate and he was agreeable). He had also agreed that the King of Government that he was waiting for its representative to tender his abdication and "hand over national power" to the revolutionary government.

The government delegation comprised three members: Tran Huu Lien, its leader, Nguyen Luong Bang, and myself. We set out on the morning of August 27, 1945 in a black limousine borrowed from the French-owned STA garage. We thought that if we travelled also by night we

National Liberation Committee elected by the National People's Congress of August 20, 1945. "Long live the independent Viet Nam!" at times only "Independent Viet Nam!" "Independent Viet Nam!"

The crowds grew bigger and thicker after Ha Tinh. In many portions of the road our car was literally encircled. At one point it had to halt every one kilometre and talk to the population. It began raining heavily when we arrived at Ron ferry-crossing after passing the Ong Nguon bridge. It was already in the afternoon and there was a big throng assembled at the ferry. We asked them to go home because of the downpour. But a representative replied: "We have been waiting in the rain since noon..." We

The meeting was most stirring and moving. Group after group of the national patriots filed past the platform, chanting slogans all the while. During the meeting, Pham Khac Hoe (2), Chief of Secretariat of Bao Dai, came to see the delegation. On the afternoon of August 29, Mr. Hoetin his ceremonial black robe and turban called on us at the office of the People's Revolutionary Committee temporarily installed in the former office of the French Resident. He said the King was willing to abdicate and hand over national power to the Provisional Government. The King only had a few wishes:

- a) The members of the Royal Family should be accorded by the Government as citizens (i.e. without discrimination).
- b) The mandarins of the Imperial Court to be allowed to contribute, each according to his spirit and ability

## THE LAST MOMENTS OF A DYNASTY

Reminiscences by CU HUY CAN

could make Hue by early August 28, and accordingly notified the Hue People's Revolutionary Committee.

However, we could not keep to our schedule because we had reckoned without the cheering crowds along our road. From Thanh Hoa southward we were stopped every dozen kilometres by big groups of people who had come to the roadside waving welcome with golden-starred red flags to the representatives of the Provisional Government. We were greeted by rousing cheers and slogans. Some stopped them from hoisting. Each time we were halted by an improvised rally, we all stepped out to shake hands, and talk to the well-wishers. In most cases, Tran Huu Lien had to take charge of the car and he did so with great fervour to very attentive audiences. He almost invariably began his speech with something like this: "Comrades fellow-countrymen! After nearly a century, our country has regained independence, our people have wrested back power and our nation has been freed from all oppression and exploitation. We have wiped off the humiliation of a century of colonial bondage. We owe today's glory to the patriotism of our fellow-citizens in resisting foreign aggression. Our people had been brought to an unprecedented peak thanks to the propaganda, agitation and organization of the Viet Minh. Friends which very deeply moved and inspired. Now our people throughout the country have risen up like one man and are zealously responding to the call for General Insurrection of the

immediately got out and went into the Customs House by the ferry side to address them. Many among the audience burst into tears when Tran Huu Lien spoke of the days of colonial enslavement, and we, too, could not restrain our emotion. The mood of the crowd switched to wild enthusiasm when the speaker talked of the general insurrection that was sweeping the country from North to South. It continued to rain cats and dogs. Yet, looking at the sea-red flags with golden stars and the happy but firm faces of the listeners, we had the strange impression that the sun was shining all over the place. On the other bank of the river we ran into another big crowd.

And the same happened again and again until we reached Quang Tri, then Hue, our destination. At about 9 a.m. on August 29 we arrived at the Chanh Ferry crossing where we were met by Tao Hau, Chairman of the Insurrection Committee of Hue. He introduced us to the people that had gathered there and said: "This government is the government, really, of the government of our people." Not until noon that day did we get to Hue. We drove straight to the stadium near Cho Cong. There we were told by members of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Thua Thien and Hue that the population had assembled at the stadium on the evening of August 27 and had been singing and shouting the Declaration. We met Le Van Hien, Minister of Labour of the Provisional Government, newly arrived from Da Nang.

All the temples and tombs of the Nguyen kings should be entrusted to the care of the revolutionary State and there should be no

ties, to the recovery of national independence.

c) The tombs and temples of the Nguyen Dynasty to be treated by the Government with "proper regard" (implying a fear of vandalism).

As a matter of fact, power had been taken back by the people in the nationwide insurrection under the leadership of the Indochinese Communist Party headed by President Ho Chi Minh, and not "handed over" to the Provisional Government by the puppet king. Yet, when the speaker told that in my view he told Mr. Hoc that power had been had by the people throughout the country and the Government's policy was to unite the entire people to safeguard national independence. For the imperial tombs and monuments, the King could set his mind at rest. The delegation of the Provisional Government laid down the following additional terms:

1. After the abdication ceremony, Bao Dai should leave the Royal Palace and should enjoy all the democratic freedoms like any other citizen.

2. Except for the personal belongings of Bao Dai, his wife Nam Phuong and his son Thanh Chung, he should be allowed to take out and put at their disposal, all the other property of the King and the Nguyen Dynasty should become State property.

All the temples and tombs of the Nguyen kings should be entrusted to the care of the revolutionary State and there should be no

## South Viet Nam

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN AUGUST 1970

## PUPPET TROOPS' HEAVY LOSSES IN OUTER DEFENCE LINE

THE US troops dug in deeper in the inner defence belt around such towns as Salmon, Huu Da, Nang, GPA reported. On the other hand, the bulk of puppet regular divisions and reserve forces was sent to defend the outer perimeter or to Cambodia and Laos but could not bear the brunt of PLAF punches and suffered heavy losses.

South of the 17th parallel, after heavy casualties on Hill 935 (West of Hue) at the end of July 1970, the 101st Heliborne Division hurriedly withdrew from that sector and was replaced by 6 battalions of the First Fire Division. Cao Ba Cu Pung and Da Ban became a hotbed of the puppet's project. Through August, PLAF artillery and ground forces hit and at enemy positions and intercepted his rallies to clear the terrain. The US 2nd Airborne Brigade had to be sent to the rescue of the puppet units and got badly beaten. The situation of the enemy in this area was as gloomy as that in the North of that year. His defence line along Highway No 9 (from Can Gio to Cam Lo) came under constant fire. On his rear, from Dong Ha to Phu Bai, his position at Nam Hoa, and Pho Trach were also stormed. According to initial reports, in the first 25 days of August, PLAF men exacted a total of nearly 4,000 enemy troops, downed or destroyed about 100 aircraft, 100 armoured vehicles (50 tanks and armoured cars) and 16 cannons and sank 13 transports and combat launches.

Further South, in Da Nang area and in Quang Nam town, the enemy also licked the dust. The heavy onsets of the PLAF on Ben Giang and Kham Due caused him serious damage and forced him to evacuate the region and dig in the coastal area. According to still incomplete figures in 44 days (up to the end of July) the enemy lost 1,440 men.

In the Mekong Delta and the three fronts north of Saigon the enemy was not in a better position either. In one night nearly 100 posts, 6 sub-sectors,

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hindrance to visits to these places for the purpose of worship.

The abdication ceremony was set for the afternoon of August 30. Mr. Hoc again came to see us and said: "The King earnestly requests the yellow flag of the Nguyen Dynasty for the last time on the flagpole at the Ngu Mon gate at the abdication ceremony. After the reading of the Abdication Declaration, the yellow flag should be lowered and the golden-starred red flag of the revolution hoisted in its place." Our delegation agreed. Also on the afternoon of August 29, we visited the Royal Palace for an interview with Bao Dai. The question of how to address him was taken up. We came to the conclusion that we should not use titles with Your Majesty." But the voice of "Sir" would sound a bit queer. Finally, we opted for "Your Excellency." At 4 p.m. or more, our car flying the golden-starred red flag drove straight through the Ngu Mon gate which, according to the royal etiquette, was only opened on State

occasions and reserved only for the puppet monarch and the French governor general. We arrived at the Kien Trung palace, the residence of Bao Dai. When Mr. Hoc had been expecting us at the foot of the steps. We were greeted at the main door of the palace by Bao Dai dressed in a blue robe. After the salutation, he spoke first, saying in substance that he was very happy to hand over the country's reins to the Provisional Government. As he put it, for more than two years of his reign, "there was only the bitter feeling of humiliation and powerlessness" because "many things I wanted to do for the good of the country could not be done." On behalf of the delegation, Tran Huu Lien praised the King's decision to abdicate and explained the Government's policy of uniting the entire people for safeguarding national independence. Bao Dai said he accepted all the conditions of the Provisional Government (transmitted to him by Mr. Hoc) and thanked the delegation for its assurances.

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